AMENDMENTS

Applicant requests that the Examiner enter the following amendments:

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously presented) A method for detecting~~, inferring, or monitoring a neoplastic disease in a human, wherein said neoplastic disease is associated with expression or~~ overexpression of ~~one or more~~ a human RNA species in blood plasma or serum from a human, the method comprising the steps of:

   a) extracting total extracellular RNA from blood plasma or serum ~~of~~ from a human;

   b) amplifying or signal amplifying quantitatively or qualitatively a portion of the extracted RNA or cDNA therefrom to produce an amplified product or signal, using primers or probes specific for a human RNA species or cDNA therefrom~~, wherein said RNA is expressed or overexpressed in a neoplastic disease~~; and

   c) detecting quantitatively or qualitatively the amplified product or signal and comparing the detected amplified product or signal to a reference amplified product or signal of said human RNA species or cDNA extracted ~~determined~~ from plasma or serum from a human group or population without disease,

wherein ~~a neoplastic disease is detected, inferred or monitored in a human when the amplified product or signal of one or more~~ a human RNA ~~expressed or~~ species extracted from human blood plasma or serum is determined to be overexpressed ~~in said neoplastic disease, or cDNA therefrom,~~ when said RNA species or cDNA therefrom is detected in an amount or concentration greater than [a] the reference ~~amount or concentration for said~~ amplified product or signal of said RNA species or cDNA therefrom ~~determined~~ extracted from blood plasma or serum from a human group or population without said ~~neoplastic~~ disease.

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2. (Currently amended) A ~~The~~ method ~~of~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ overexpression of a tumor-associated extracellular RNA species in human blood plasma or serum indicates that the disease is a neoplastic disease ~~is cancer or premalignancy~~.

3. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the amplified product is produced from a non-tumor related RNA or cDNA produced therefrom.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the amplified product is produced from a tumor related RNA or cDNA produced therefrom.

5. (Currently amended) A method for detecting~~, inferring, or monitoring a neoplastic disease in a human, wherein said neoplastic disease is associated with the expression or~~ overexpression of ~~one or more~~ a human RNA species in a non-cellular fraction of blood from a human, the method comprising the steps of:

   a) extracting total extracellular RNA from a non-cellular fraction of blood from a human;

   b) amplifying or signal amplifying quantitatively or qualitatively a portion of the extracted RNA or cDNA therefrom to produce an amplified product or signal, using primers or probes specific for a human RNA species or cDNA therefrom~~, wherein said RNA is expressed or overexpressed in a neoplastic disease~~); and

   c) detecting quantitatively or qualitatively the amplified product or signal and comparing the detected amplified product or signal to a reference amplified

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product or signal of said RNA species or cDNA extracted ~~determined~~ from non-cellular fractions of blood from a human group or population without a disease, wherein ~~a neoplastic disease is detected, inferred or monitored in a human when the amplified product or signal of one or more~~ a human RNA ~~expressed or~~ species extracted from a non-cellular fraction of human blood is determined to be overexpressed ~~in said neoplastic disease~~ when said RNA species, or cDNA therefrom, is detected in an amount or concentration greater than [a] the reference ~~amount or concentration determined~~ amplified product or signal of said RNA species or cDNA therefrom extracted from [a] non-cellular fractions of blood from a human group or population without said ~~neoplastic~~ disease.

6. (Currently amended) A ~~The~~ method ~~of~~ according to claim 5, wherein the disease is a neoplastic disease when a tumor-associated RNA species in human blood plasma or serum is overexpressed ~~is cancer or premalignancy~~.

7. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 5, wherein the amplified product is produced from a non-tumor related RNA or cDNA produced therefrom.

8. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the amplified product is produced from a tumor related RNA or cDNA produced therefrom.

9. (Currently amended) A method ~~to detect, infer, or monitor a neoplastic disease in~~ for comparing an amount or concentration of a human RNA species present in plasma or serum from a human to said RNA species present in plasma or serum from a group or

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population of humans without cancer, ~~wherein the neoplastic disease is associated with the expression or overexpression of one or more tumor-associated human RNA species,~~ the method comprising the steps of extracting total extracellular RNA from plasma or serum from a human, a portion of which comprises a human RNA species, determining an amount or concentration ~~or comparative value of one or a plurality of tumor associated human~~ of said human RNA species ~~associated with said neoplastic disease~~ in [a] the extracted portion of human blood plasma or serum ~~from the human~~, and comparing the amount or concentration ~~or comparative value of one or a plurality of tumor associated human~~ of said human RNA species from plasma or serum of said human to [a] the reference range RNA amount [,] or concentration~~, or value~~ for said RNA species determined from plasma or serum from a ~~defined~~ human group or population without cancer ~~neoplastic disease, wherein a neoplastic disease is detected, inferred, or monitored in a human when the amount or concentration or comparative value of one or a plurality of said tumor-associated human RNA in said human is greater than a defined reference range RNA amount, concentration, or value for said tumor-associated RNA determined from plasma or serum from a human group or population without a neoplastic disease~~.

10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 9, wherein the defined group or population comprises healthy humans.

11. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 9, wherein the defined group or population comprises healthy animals.

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12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the ~~group or population with a neoplastic disease comprises humans with~~ human has cancer.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the (~~group or population with a neoplastic disease comprises humans with premalignancy~~) human has not been diagnosed with cancer.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the ~~defined~~ group or population comprises humans of a specific gender or age group.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the ~~defined~~ group or population comprises humans who smoke.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 9, wherein the defined group or population comprises humans with a family or genetic history of cancer or cancer risk.

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20. (Currently amended) A method ~~to detect, infer, or monitor neoplastic disease in~~ for comparing an amount or concentration of an extracellular human RNA species present in a non-cellular fraction of blood from a human to said RNA species present in non-cellular fractions of blood from a group or population of humans without cancer, ~~wherein the neoplastic disease is associated with the expression or overexpression of one or more tumor-associated human RNA species,~~ the method comprising the steps of extracting total extracellular RNA from a non-cellular fraction of blood from a human, a portion of which comprises a human RNA species, determining an amount or concentration ~~or comparative value of one or a plurality of tumor-associated human~~ of said human RNA species ~~associated with said neoplastic disease~~ in [a] the extracted portion of a non-cellular fraction of blood from the human, and comparing the amount or concentration of said human RNA species from a non-cellular fraction of blood of said human to [a] the reference range RNA amount [,] or concentration~~, or value~~ for said human RNA species determined from non-cellular fractions of blood from a ~~defined~~ human group or population without cancer ~~neoplastic disease, wherein a neoplastic disease is detected, inferred, or monitored in a human when the amount or concentration or comparative value of one or a plurality of said tumor-associated human RNA in said human is greater than a defined reference range RNA amount, concentration, or value for said tumor-associated RNA determined from plasma or serum from a human group or population without neoplastic disease~~.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein the defined group or population comprises healthy humans.

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22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein the defined group or population comprises healthy animals.

23. (Currently amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the ~~group or population with a neoplastic disease comprises humans with~~ human has cancer.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the (~~group or population with a neoplastic disease comprises humans with premalignancy~~) human has not been diagnosed with cancer.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the ~~defined~~ group or population comprises humans of a specific sex or age group.

29. (Currently amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the ~~defined~~ group or population comprises humans who smoke.

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30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein the defined group or population comprises humans with a family or genetic history of cancer or cancer risk.

31. (Withdrawn) A method of comparing an amount or concentration of a housekeeping gene RNA from blood plasma or serum to an amount or concentration of a tumor-associated RNA from blood plasma or serum of a human, the method comprising the steps of extracting RNA from blood plasma or serum of a human, assaying quantitatively a portion of the extracted RNA to determine an amount or concentration of a housekeeping gene RNA and an amount or concentration of a tumor-associated RNA, and comparing the amount or concentration of the housekeeping gene RNA and the tumor-associated RNA thereby.

32. (Withdrawn) A method of comparing an amount or concentration of a housekeeping gene RNA from a non-cellular fraction of blood to an amount or concentration of a tumor-associated RNA from a non-cellular fraction of blood of a human, the method comprising the steps of extracting RNA from a non-cellular fraction of blood of a human, assaying quantitatively a portion of the extracted RNA to determine an amount or concentration of a housekeeping gene RNA and an amount or concentration of a tumor-associated RNA, and comparing the amount or concentration of the housekeeping gene RNA and the tumor-associated RNA thereby.

33. (Withdrawn) A method of evaluating a human or animal for a disease comprising the step of assaying quantitatively blood plasma or serum from the human or animal to determine an amount or concentration of a non-tumor related RNA.

34. (Withdrawn) A method of evaluating a human or animal for a disease comprising the step of assaying quantitatively non-cellular fraction of a bodily fluid from the human or animal to determine an amount or concentration of a non-tumor related RNA.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Cancelled)

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Cancelled)

43. (Cancelled)

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Currently amended) A ~~The~~ method of claim 9, wherein ~~the neoplastic disease is~~ the human is determined to have cancer ~~or premalignancy~~ and wherein the RNA species is a tumor-associated RNA.

46. (Currently amended) A ~~The~~ method of claim 20, wherein ~~the neoplastic disease is~~ the human is determined to have cancer ~~or premalignancy~~ and wherein the RNA species is a tumor-associated RNA.

47. (Cancelled)

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48. (Cancelled)

49. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33, wherein the disease is cancer or premalignancy.

50. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 34, wherein the disease is cancer or premalignancy.